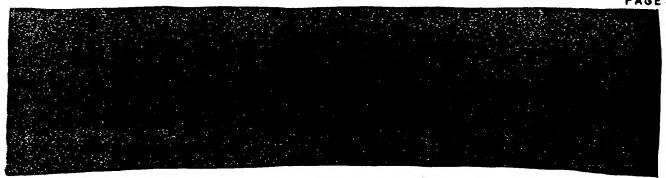
PAGE: 6272



/\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*/
BODY
SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICA BRIEF
1991.

## CONTENTS

1. HAITI: MILITARY SHOWING FLEXIBILITY



2.

1. HAITI: MILITARY SHOWING FLEXIBILITY

SENIOR MILITARY LEADERS REPORTEDLY ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT THAT WOULD EVENTUALLY ALLOW PRESIDENT ARISTIDE'S CONDITIONAL RETURN TO HAITI, BUT THEIR ABILITY TO MAINTAIN SUCH SUPPORT IN THE ARMED FORCES WILL BE TESTED SOON.

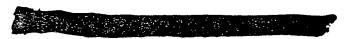
ARMED FORCES COMMANDER CEDRAS REPORTEDLY BELIEVES THAT ENLISTED TROOPS WOULD ACCEPT ARISTIDE'S REINSTATEMENT IF A NEW GOVERNMENT, LED BY CENTRIST MARC BAZIN OR POSSIBLY LEFTIST RENE THEODORE AS PRIME MINISTER, IS INSTALLED AND FUNCTIONING INDEPENDENTLY BEFOREHAND.

POPULAR NITH THE TROOPS AND VEHEMENTLY ANTI-ARISTIDE, TOLD HOWEVER, THAT BAZIN IS THE ONLY CANDIDATE "COMPLETELY" ACCEPTABLE TO THE ARMY. MOREOVER, REGIME OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY PLAN TO GO AHEAD WITH A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IF ARISTIDE REJECTS BAZIN.

COMMENT: IF LEGISLATORS BACK AWAY FROM BAZIN OR TALKS DRAG ON, MILITARY SUPPORT FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WOULD ERODE SHAFPLY. RIVALRIES AMONG UNITS CONTINUE, AND MOST ENLISTED TROOPS STILL DISTRUST OFFICERS, WHO THEY EARLIER SUSPECTED WERE READY TO ACCEPT ARISTIDE'S IMMEDIATE RETURN. CEDRAS BELIEVES HE EVENTUALLY CAN PERSUADE THE TROOPS TO ACCEPT ARISTIDE'S RETURN; HE CANNOT YET ORDER THEM TO DO SO.

753

CEARET



PAGE:6273

EVEN BAZIN'S INSTALLATION WOULD BE ONLY A FIRST--ALBEIT CRITICAL--STEP TOWARD ARISTIDE'S REINSTATEMENT; OFFICERS AND TROOPS WOULD ALSO INSIST THAT A FAMILIAR SENIOR OFFICER--SUCH AS CEDRAS--SERVE AS ARMED FORCES COMMANDER AND THAT A FOREIGN OBSERVER MISSION MONITOR ARISTIDE'S ADHERENCE TO AN ACCORD.

